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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Nobumasa SUZUKI et al.

Group Art Unit: 3733

Appln. No: 10/659,297

Examiner: Pedro PHILOGENE

Filed: September 11, 2003

Confirmation No.: 3563

For: ROD CONNECTOR

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.112**

Commissioner for Patents  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop Amendment  
Randolph Building  
401 Dulany Street  
Alexandria VA 22314

Sir:

In response to the Official Action dated November 19, 2008, setting forth a three-month shortened statutory period for response to expire on February 19, 2009, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejection in view of the herein contained amendments and remarks. However, if any extension of time is necessary, this is an express request for any necessary extension of time and authorization to charge any required extension of time fee or any other fees which may be required to preserve the pendency of the present application to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 2 of this Response.  
**Remarks** begin on page 4 of this Response.